

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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For Immediate Release
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Motorcycle Fatality - Mason County

On the evening of Monday August 21, 2006 troopers assigned to the Shelton Detachment of the Washington State Patrol responded to a single motorcycle fatality collision on SR 119 near MP 5. Troopers arrived on scene of the two lane roadway leading to Lake Cushman and found a single motorcycle had left the roadway to the right and struck an embankment. Lloyd Howard, the 53 year old driver, died at the scene. At the time of the collision Gijsberdina Lloyd was a passenger on the motorcycle. Gijsberdina sustained minor injuries, but did not seek medical attention from the scene.

Trooper's located evidence and gathered statements to indicate alcohol may have contributed to the collision. Across the state, 40% of motorcycle fatality collisions involve an operator who has a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or greater. Troopers learned that Lloyd Howard did not have a motorcycle endorsement. 36% of motorcycle operators killed in motorcycle collisions in Washington State do not have the proper motorcycle endorsement.

The Washington State Patrol wants to remind motorcycle operators that the majority of motorcycle fatality collisions occur on dry roads, during daylight hours in the spring and summer months. The leading contributing factors of motorcycle fatalities are lane errors, speed, alcohol and inattention.

Year to date, law enforcement officers across the state have investigated 49 fatality collisions involving motorcycles. The number includes a passenger on a motorcycle and an occupant of a vehicle struck by a motorcycle.

Troopers have taken a zero tolerance enforcement policy on collision causing moving violations, DUI, and license violations. Responsible riders are encouraged to take beginner and advanced motorcycle safety class in an effort to improve personal safety and ensure proper motorcycle endorsement.

The Washington State Patrol has begun a Problem Orientated Public Safety Project (POPS) working with stake holders such as Dept. of Licensing, Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Motorcycle Safety Education Groups, to combine efforts to reduce motorcycle fatalities. One goal of the POPS project is to educate the motorcycle operators on the leading cause of fatality and injury collisions.

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District Eight

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